

REMARKS

Claim 1 is objected to on formal grounds. These objections have been addressed.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sawdon et al US 5339509*.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of Double Patenting.

The formal claim objections and those under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been addressed by the foregoing amendments.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, specifically that the compressed material is cold work hardened by further compression after the yielding wall sections have traveled the full extent of their radial pith.

Nowhere in *Sawdon* is there a disclosure of cold work hardening of the material through deliberate or even unintended further compression of the compressed material. There is no disclosure of further compression after the elements 42/142 cease movement. Further, there is no disclosure of these elements even abutting the element 149 as stated by the Examiner.

Regarding US Patent application 12/214309 (now US patent 7681296) and US Patent 7150086, these references are also distinguished from the presently claimed invention in that there is likewise no disclosure of the cold work hardening of the present invention.

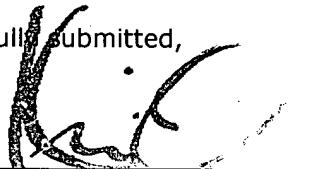
CONCLUSION

Applicant asserts that all of the objections have been obviated and, therefore now respectfully requests examination on the merits.

PETITION FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE TERM

The applicant herewith petitions the Commissioner of Patents to extend the time for reply to the Final Official Action for three-months from 28 December 2009 to 28 March 2010, which is a Sunday. Submitted herewith is a check for \$555 to cover the cost of the extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to deposit account number 04-2219, referencing our docket number 13976.

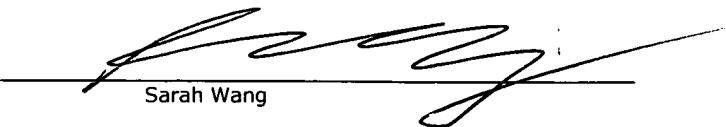
Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on 29 March 2010.


Sarah Wang